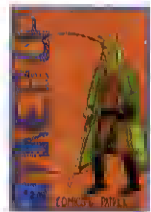




#1



#2



#3



#4

Draw Pat

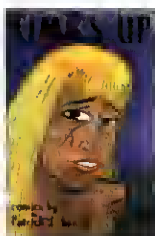


Art by Ariel Schrag

And win a free issue of Time's Up!

Do you consider yourself an artist? A connoisseur of comics?

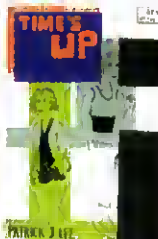
If you're both, you can take part in this exciting offer!
Send us your best drawing of Pat and take home a
free issue of Time's Up.



#5



#6



#7



#8

Dear Sirs: Enclosed is my drawing of Pat. Please send me the issue(s) I've indicated below.
Send cash only to: 280 N. Florence St., Burbank, CA 91505-3618
For you non-artists, back issues are \$2.00 ppd. One winner per family.
Supplies are limited, please list alternates. All artwork becomes the property of Airk Lee Productions.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____

QTY

ISSUE

PRICE

TOTAL

Are you the person you want to be?

☐ YES

☐ NO

You may photocopy this coupon if you do not wish to cut up this issue of Time's Up.

TIMES UP #9 FEB 2000 \$2.00

BEARING



WAIT

COMICS BY
PATRICK J. LEE

It's February and that means it's time for a new Time's Up. This issue, instead of one book-length story, I have 22 one-page strips for you.

On with the letters...

My own interpretation of Time's Up #8 is that the story is really about the girl. She turns out to be a somewhat aggressive strong-willed female that likes to get her way. Later in life she found her man. I'm sure the marriage and child is what she was after and she got it for sure and no doubt rules her family with an iron fist.

H. L. Coats
Indianapolis, IN

I applaud your ambition, and I appreciate your focus on everyday life.

Adrian Tomine
Berkeley, CA

I really enjoyed #8, especially the backflashes in that almost stream-of-consciousness style.

Rebecca D. Dillon
Roanoke, VA

Really enjoyed your comic; I read the whole thing in front of my mailbox! An intriguing tale. I wonder what happened to my second grade boyfriend?

Bunnigrrrl
San Juan Capistrano, CA

#8's story was the best part of it, I liked the themes of guilt and self-consciousness that run through it, between both Wes and Molly. Guilt and nostalgia

are major motivations in people's lives, but often ignored in drama, probably because they're not as obviously visually compelling as other emotional impulses. Anyways it was a nice vignette, or meditation on the themes, which were skillfully insinuated and unobtrusive.

Trevor Alixopolos
Fulton, CA

I think #8 is my favorite of your issues. I like the ambiguity about it being autobio or fictional. The uncomfortable pauses and echoing silence were very effective. Also, your letters pages were impressively edited.

Davida Gypsy Breier
Havre de Grace, MD

I liked the way you opened up the story with the three panel tier (each panel, perhaps representing the past, present and future of the narrator). You are either very good at tapping into your own emotions and determining why you act the way you do in certain situations or else you are a good observer of others' behavior and actions-probably both I imagine.

Bruce Stengl
Santa Rosa, CA

Jesse Reklaw's letter in #8 seems prophetic, since "grating" goes with "resistance" - which goes with "sentience" (as in scruples, inhibition, self-conflict, awkwardness). Ergo, a very "sentient" style can also be "grating," in Reklaw's sense of the term, because of awkward emotional complications or friction.

Rick Howe
Springdale, AR

[continued on inside back cover]

**Bearing
the Wait**
TIME'S UP #9
by Patrick J. Lee
280 N. Florence St.
Burbank, CA 91505-3618
elee1997@aol.com

TIME'S UP #9 February 2000
Published by Airik Lee Productions, 280 N. Florence St., Burbank, CA 91505-3618.
©2000 Patrick J. Lee. First Printing. Special thanks to Davida, Emily, Leland and Therese. This issue would not have been possible without the efforts and machinations of Victor De Anda. Next issue--the final Time's Up?

Issues of Alphaville are 50 cents each or \$4.00 ppd. for the set of eight.

I'm surprised that journal entry evoked such a response! Sure you can use it. However, I have never looked as sporty as you drew me in the beach panel. Curious George? Okay...

Davida Gypsy Breier
Havre de Grace, MD

I don't know if it was your intention, but I felt that you captured the unsettling chill of frustration. I found myself wishing that page 24 wasn't the end of the story, but I suspect it is. Further development would just launch into fictional melodrama. Maybe that's it: reality is the essence of frustration. Or is it the other way around?

Jesse Reklaw
New Haven, CT

By pure chance, I read the review of your zine Time's Up in the Factsheet Five #64. I think that your comics is interesting, and this is my attempt for trading. I know that Labyrinth zine which I send to you is on strange language for you, but I hope that this not be a big problem. If you want, I'll send you some comics of my friends from Subotica (town where I live) with translation (on my horrible English language).

Mirko Stoilkov
Yugoslavia

The name Time's Up seemed to be very fitting for the story. Your artwork is really cool. I thought the ending was sad. The whole thing made me rethink. I just love when comics do that to you!

Katrina
Uncasville, CT

This is a hard kind of story to do-- I know from experience-- and I think you've done a really good job with it. Making it fiction rather than autobio must help a lot. The "aspect to aspect" page (p.17) is especially effective. I've got to try that sometime...

David Lasky
Seattle, WA

I thought #8 was pretty scary in that growing up you learn more and more things you really could live without knowing. If only God would grant me perpetual 19-ness.

Amy Adoyzie
Hacienda Heights, CA

After careful consideration, we have decided not to publish your work at this time. Thank you for submitting your work to Interbang Magazine, and please feel free to submit more work in the future.

Heather Hoffman
Venice, CA

By pure chance, I read the review of your zine Time's Up in the Factsheet Five #64. I think that your comics is interesting, and this is my attempt for trading. I know that Labyrinth zine which I send to you is on strange language for you, but I hope that this not be a big problem. If you want, I'll send you some comics of my friends from Subotica (town where I live) with translation (on my horrible English language).

Mirko Stoilkov
Yugoslavia

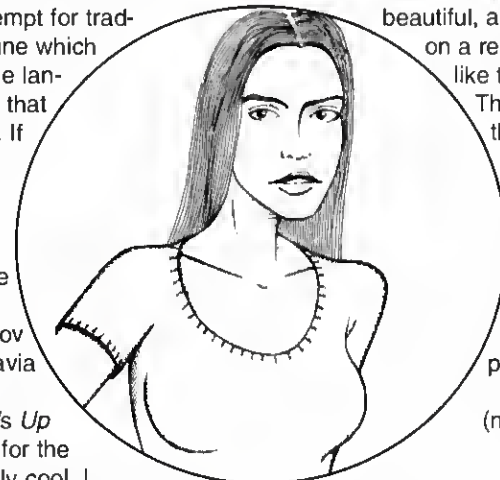
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Katrina
Uncasville, CT

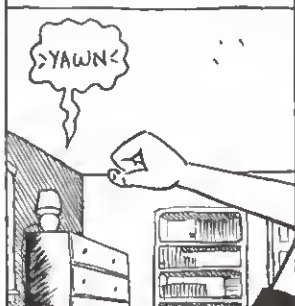
The cover to She Said is quite beautiful, and if it's based on a real person, I'd like to meet her! There's just something about that wide, sensual mouth, those big eyes, and those beautifully normal-sized breasts...a piece to be proud of.

Jeff Smith
(not the Bone guy)
via the Internet

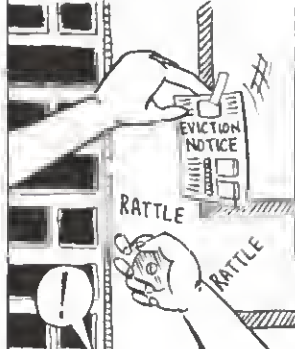
Thanks for the compliment. Yes, the cover is based on a real person. Although I don't know her personally, I wish I did.--Paet



by Patrick J. Lee
I ONCE HAD A DREAM
(OR I GUESS YOU COULD
CALL IT A NIGHTMARE)
WHERE I LOST EVERYTHING.



WHEN I FINALLY MADE
IT BACK TO MY APARTMENT,
I FOUND THAT THE DOOR
LOCKS HAD BEEN CHANGED.



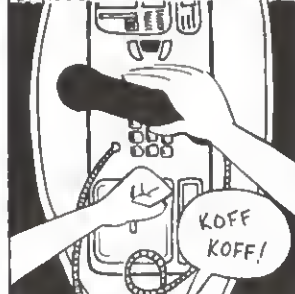
STUNNED, I DECIDED TO SIT
DOWN AND TRY TO MAKE
SOME SENSE OF MY PREDICAMENT.
I BEGAN TO SEE THE HUMOR
IN THE SITUATION.



IT BEGAN ON A MONDAY
MORNING LIKE ANY OTHER
EXCEPT THAT WHEN I GOT
TO WORK, MY BOSS TOLD
ME TO PACK UP MY THINGS.
SHE DIDN'T EXPLAIN WHY
SHE WAS FIRING ME.



SUDDENLY, I BEGAN TO
COUGH UNCONTROLABLY. I
MANAGED TO MAKE IT TO
A PAY PHONE BUT REALIZED
I DID NOT HAVE MY
LANDLORD'S PHONE NUMBER.



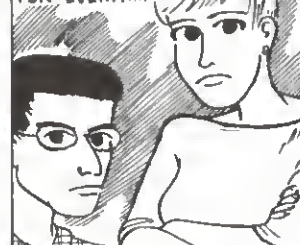
BUT AS I TRIED TO ORGANIZE
THE DAY'S EVENTS INTO A
COHERENT COMICS PAGE,
TO MY HORROR, I REALIZED
I HAD NO IDEA HOW TO BEGIN.



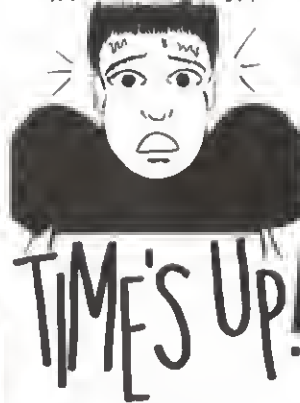
I WENT OUT TO MY CAR
TO FIND THAT IT HAD VANISHED.
A GUY IN THE PARKING LOT
TOLD ME IT HAD BEEN
TOWED.



FAILING THAT, I TRIED
CALLING A FRIEND. TO MY
SHOCK AND EMBARRASSMENT,
THEY ALL SAID I'D HAVE
TO GET OUT OF THIS JAM
ON MY OWN AND THAT I
CAN'T KEEP RELYING ON THEM
FOR EVERYTHING.



THEN I WOKE UP.



END.

THIS ISSUE OF Time's Up IS

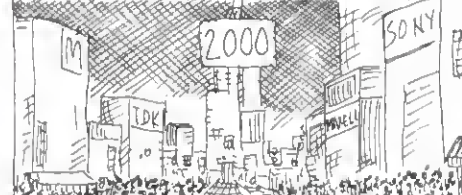
READY TO READ

© 2000 PATRICK J. LEE

THE AIRWAVES ARE FILLED WITH
GOVERNMENT WARNINGS TO BE EXTRA
CAUTIOUS THE NEXT FEW DAYS. IT
SEEMS LIKE EVERYONE IS EXPECTING
SOMETHING TO HAPPEN. THE PROBLEM
IS THAT NO ONE KNOWS WHAT THAT
'SOMETHING' WILL BE.



PEOPLE SPEAK OF THE END OF THE
YEAR WITHOUT ACKNOWLEDGING THE
BEGINNING OF THE NEXT THE USUAL
CELEBRATIONS HAVE A "LAST CHANCE"
"DO OR DIE" AURA ABOUT THEM.



ALL THIS TALK THOUGH HAS GIVEN
ME PAUSE. THE WHOLE IDEA BEHIND
Time's Up IS THAT OUR TIME
HERE IS LIMITED. BUT NOW IT
LOOKS LIKE WE HAVE AN EXTENSION.



AS I WRITE THIS, IT IS JUST A
FEW DAYS BEFORE THE NEW YEAR AND
I AM LABORING UNDER THE INFLUENCE
OF A SIX-DAY (SO FAR) COLD



EVEN NAY SAYERS TO THE IMPENDING
APOCALYPSE OR COMPUTER BREAKDOWN
OR WHATEVER HAVE THE TONE OF
FINALITY IN THEIR VOICE. THE
CONCEPT OF ENDINGS INFORMS
EVERY COMMENT, EVERY GESTURE



IT IS NOW JANUARY FIRST 2000
THE BIG DAY CAME AND WENT
SEEMINGLY WITHOUT INCIDENT.
EVERYONE FELT IT WAS SOMEHOW
ANTI-CLIMACTIC.



IS THE Time's Up CLOCK
STILL TICKING? SHOULD IT? OR
SHOULD WE CALL IT QUITS?



JOURNAL ENTRY:

1/12/99

WORDS: Davida

PICTURES: Pat

©1999

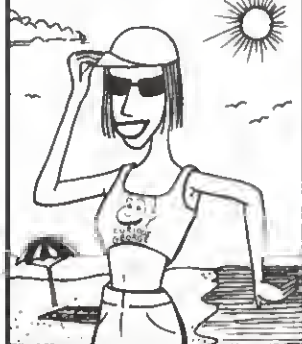
This fall, I had too much to worry about to bother shaving my legs or underarms.



I usually shaved because...
2) it had been a habit since I was 12



2) it was more comfortable during the summer and--



3) my legs would get itchy otherwise.



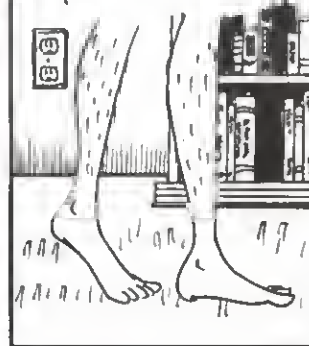
After a month or two had gone by, I decided not to bother shaving again.



It was odd to realize that there were things about my body that I had never known--



Now I experience that freaky feeling of shuffling across the carpet--



--and having my leg hairs stand on end because of the static electricity.



END.

FOR DAVIDA - Pat 1999

from Leeking Ink by Davida Gypsy Brewer (Leeking Inc., 1999)

BEARING THE WAIT

©1999 PATRICK J. LEE

I ASKED A GIRL OUT ONCE WHO WAS IN MY U.S. GOVERNMENT CLASS. WE WENT TO THE HOMECOMING DANCE.



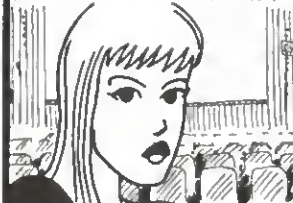
WE DID NOT GO TO THE PROM.

ANOTHER TIME, I ASKED OUT A GIRL WHOM I MET WHEN I WORKED AT A PORTRAIT STUDIO.



WE SAW 'STAND BY ME'

ONE TIME I ASKED A GIRL OUT TO AN ANIMATION FESTIVAL.



I HAD TO SCALP THE TICKETS I HAD ALREADY BOUGHT TO BUY A SET FOR A LATER SHOW WHICH WAS MORE CONVENIENT FOR HER

I WENT TO BREAKFAST ONE TIME WITH A GIRL BECAUSE WE BOTH WORKED THE GRAVEYARD SHIFT.



SHE WAS THE ONLY ASIAN GIRL I HAD ANY ATTRACTION TO

I MET A GIRL AT A BAR ONCE. WHEN I LEFT TO CONTINUE DRINKING AT A FRIEND'S HOUSE, SHE FOLLOWED ME



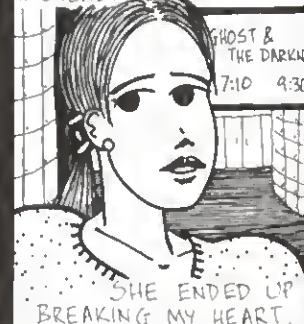
THOUGH I CALLED HER AFTER THAT NIGHT, I NEVER SAW HER AGAIN.

ONE TIME, A GIRL WHO WORKED AT NBC ASKED ME OUT.



WHEN THE SHOW WE BOTH WORKED ON GOT CANCELLED, SHE MOVED BACK TO THE EAST COAST

I SUGGESTED HAVING A CUP OF COFFEE TOGETHER TO A GIRL I KNEW. SHE SUGGESTED A MOVIE INSTEAD.



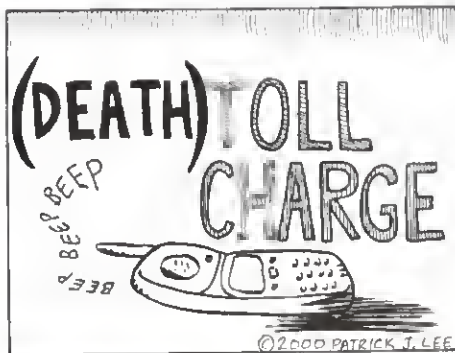
SHE ENDED UP BREAKING MY HEART.

I ASKED A GIRL OUT WHO CAME BY MY TABLE AT A COMICS CONVENTION.



I'M STILL WAITING FOR HER CALL.....

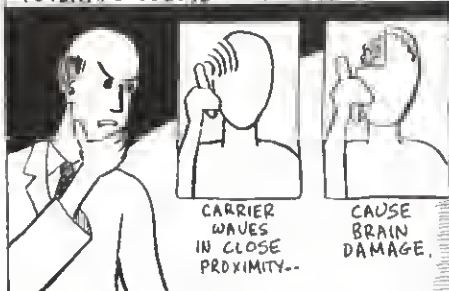
END



BY THE YEAR 2000, THERE WERE OVER 80 MILLION CELL PHONE USERS. PEOPLE COULD NOT BEAR TO BE OUT OF TOUCH WITH EACH OTHER FOR MORE THAN A MOMENT.



BUT THEN, SCIENTISTS DISCOVERED A POTENTIAL DELETERIOUS EFFECT.



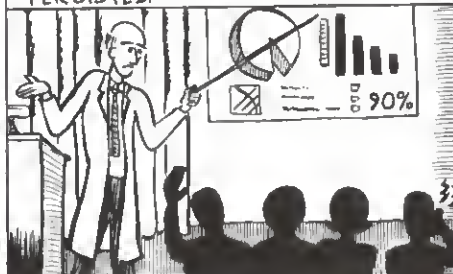
OTHERS HOWEVER, FELT THIS EVIDENCE SUPPORTED THEIR CASE AGAINST THE CELL PHONE.



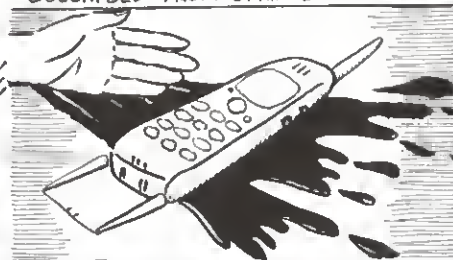
THE NON-USERS FELT VINDICATED BUT SAD. UNFORTUNATELY, THEY HAD NO WAY OF KNOWING THAT THEY WERE ACTUALLY THE UNLUCKY ONES.



THE RESULTS WERE NOT 100% CONCLUSIVE, SO UNABATED USE PERSISTED.



AS IT TURNED OUT, THE SCIENTISTS WERE RIGHT. IN ONE DAY, EVERYONE WHO HAD EVER USED A CELL PHONE COLLAPSED FROM BRAIN DAMAGE.



BECAUSE THOUGH 80 MILLION PEOPLE WERE DEAD, AT LEAST WHILE THEY WERE ALIVE, THEY KNEW PEOPLE TO TALK TO.



KUBRICK

WHEN STANLEY KUBRICK DIED THIS PAST MARCH, I WORE A BLACK ARM BAND FOR A WEEK.

IS THAT FOR JOE DIMAGGIO? NO, KUBRICK.

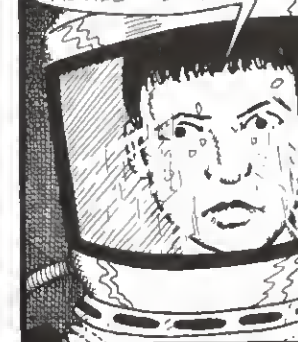


LIKE MOST PEOPLE, I WAS SURPRISED TO LEARN THAT HE WAS 70. I THOUGHT FOR SURE THAT HE HAD TWO OR, IF WE WERE LUCKY, THREE MORE FILMS LEFT IN HIM.



EVEN WHEN I WAS A KID, I COULD SENSE THE INTELLIGENCE AT WORK BEHIND FILMS LIKE 2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY AND THE SHINING.

WHAT CAN THE PERSON BEHIND THESE MOVIES BE LIKE?

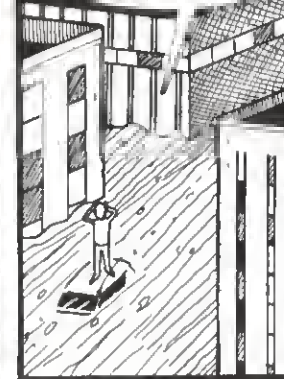


THOUGH HIS FILMS WERE NOT EASY TO WATCH, FEW FILMMAKERS MADE FILMS WHICH MERITED SUCH REASONED CONTEMPLATION. KUBRICK ALWAYS WENT FULL FORCE INTO HIS SUBJECT MATTER.



AT THIS POINT, A.I. WAS A REMOTE THOUGH DEFINITE POSSIBILITY.

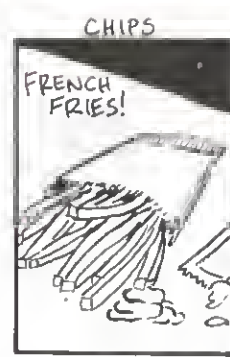
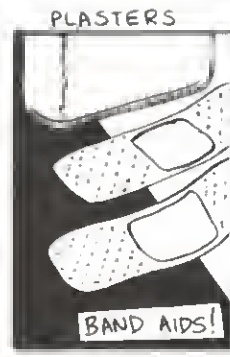
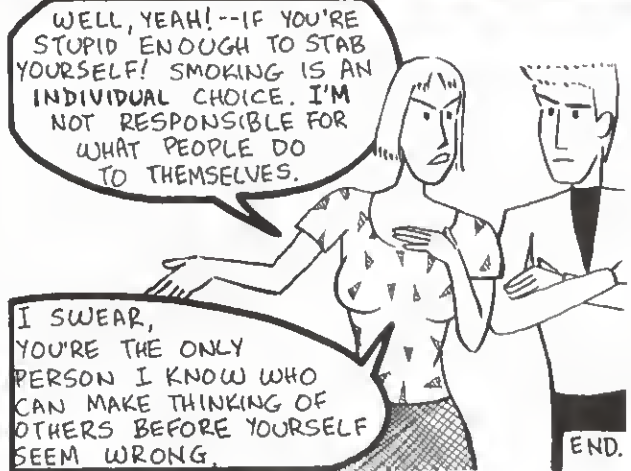
JUST IMAGINE WHAT HE COULD DO WITH TODAY'S DIGITAL FILM TECHNOLOGY!



IT FELT LIKE HE EXPECTED THE SAME LEVEL OF COMMITMENT FROM HIS AUDIENCE. FOR ME, EVERY TIME I MET HIS CHALLENGE, I WAS REWARDED.

THANK YOU, STANLEY.







PUZZLE FUN!

HERE ARE SOME MESSAGES I GOT ON MY ANSWERING MACHINE. CAN YOU MATCH THE MESSAGE WITH THE SPEAKER? FAST FIVE CORRECT ANSWERS WINS A SPECIAL PRIZE!

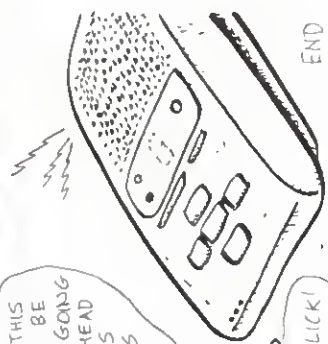
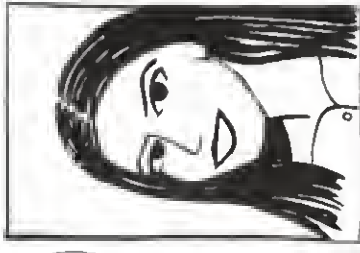
BEEP
PATRICK, THIS IS CHRISTINA. UM, I'M ON MY WAY NOW IT'S ALMOST ELEVEN. I'M SORRY, I'M RUNNING LATE. MY SINCEREST APOLOGIES BUT I'M ON MY WAY NOW, OKAY? SO, IF YOU GET THIS MESSAGE, I'M GOING TO BE THERE. BYE.

BEEP
HEY PAT, THIS IS VENESSA. I'M, UM, JUST CALLING TO LET YOU KNOW THAT VICTOR-- WE WENT TO THE EMERGENCY ROOM AND THEY WANTED TO KEEP HIM IN THE HOSPITAL TO DO TESTING FOR THE PAIN AND ALL THAT. SO, HE'S IN THE HOSPITAL AT ST. JOHN'S HEALTH CENTER.

BEEP
HEY PAT, IT'S THERESE. I CALLED YOU AND THEN YOUR PHONE DID LIKE A WEIRD FAX NOISE-- I DON'T THINK YOU HAVE A FAX-- LIKE A LONG TIME EARLIER THIS EVENING. AND THEN, I TRIED TO CALL YOU BACK-- AND IT WAS BUSY. AND THEN, I TRIED TO CALL YOU AGAIN-- AND IT WAS BUSY SO. I WENT TO WATCH A MOVIE AND NOW THE MOVIE'S OVER SO, I KNOW IT'S LATE SO I WAS THINKING, "MAYBE PAT'S BACK FROM WHEREVER IT WAS HE WAS GOING TO GO TO"

BEEP
HELLO, AHEM, HELLO, BOY-AH THIS IS MA. UH, I JUST CALLING YOU SEE DO YOU WANT TO COME OVER TODAY. I JUST WANT TO CHECK ON YOU. AND UH-- OKAY, IF YOU GET THE MESSAGE, PLEASE CALL ME.

BEEP
HELLO PATRICK, THIS IS MEGAN. I WILL BE VERY LATE TONIGHT GOING TO L.A. SO, GO AHEAD WITH YOUR PLANS BUT NEVERTHELESS I'LL CALL YOU TONIGHT.
BEEP
HEY PAT, IT'S MIKE. UH, GIVE ME A CALL OR MAYBE, I'LL GIVE YOU A CALL BACK LATER. I'LL BE TALKING TO YOU.



END

BAD DEED

ANOTHER TALE FROM PAT'S MISSPENT YOUTH

© 1999 PATRICK J LEE

AS AN ADOLESCENT BOY, I WAS SHOCKED TO SEE SUCH AN ITEM DISPLAYED ALONGSIDE OTHER INNOCUOUS OBJECTS.

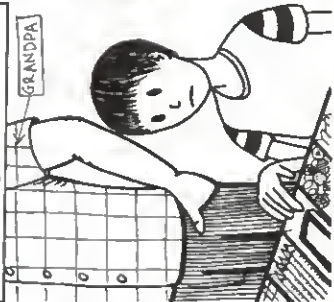


I HAD TO HAVE IT.

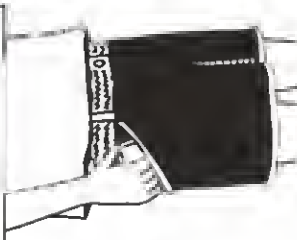
GREED OVERCAME ME, SO I WENT BACK INTO THE STORE. BUT THEN, I HEARD--

IF YOU TAKE ANYTHING, YOU MUST PAY FOR IT!
STORE CLERK
I QUICKLY (AND STUPIDLY) PUT BACK THE CARD I HAD IN MY POCKET.

BACK WHEN I WAS 10 or 11, I ONCE TRIED TO STEAL A PLAYING CARD FROM A CHINATOWN NOVELTY SHOP.



I COULDN'T GET AWAY WITH STEALING THE WHOLE DECK, SO I FOUND AN OPEN PACK AND SURREPTITIOUSLY SLID A CARD I LIKED INTO MY POCKET.



SURPRISED THAT I HAD BEEN CAUGHT STEALING, MY GRANDPA SAID--

IF YOU WANT ANYTHING, I'LL BUY IT FOR YOU

THIS WASN'T JUST ANY PLAYING CARD THOUGH. IT WAS PART OF A DECK OF NUDE PLAYING CARDS

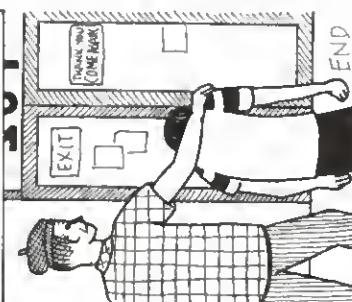


ONCE OUTSIDE, I QUICKLY LOOKED AT THE SPOILS OF MY BAD DEED AND WAS AMAZED AT HOW EASILY I GOT AWAY WITH IT



I HAD TO HAVE ANOTHER

I COULDN'T EVEN LOOK AT HIM. I NEVER WENT BACK TO THAT STORE AGAIN.

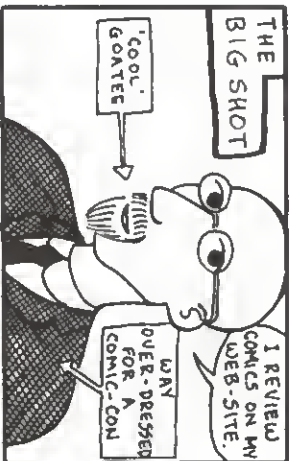


END

CAN YOU IDENTIFY THE

5 TYPES OF COMICS-CONVENTION GEEKS?

©1999 PATRICK J. LEE



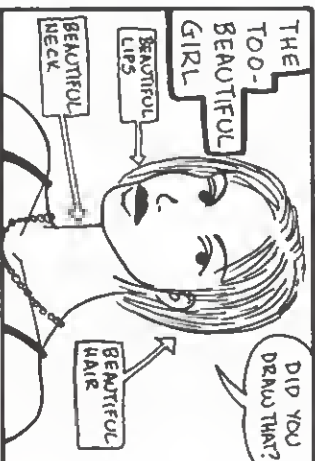
- PROMISES TO GIVE YOUR BOOK ENORMOUS EXPOSURE, IF YOU'LL GIVE HIM A FREE COPY
- LOVES YOUR STUFF, EVEN THOUGH HE JUST NOW SAW IT FOR THE FIRST TIME
- NOT TO BE CONFUSED WITH THE SYCOPHANT



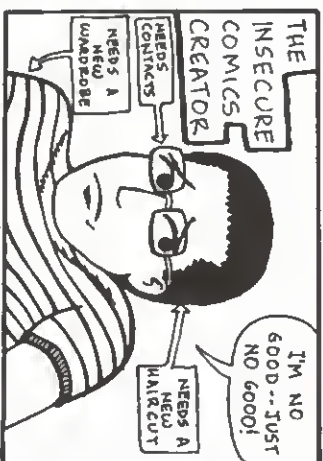
- IS OFTEN MUCH OLDER THAN SHE LOOKS (OR ACTS)
- CARRIES "IRONIC" CULTURAL ICONS (E.G. USING "BRADY BUNCH" LUNCH BOX AS PURSE)
- CUTEY PERSONA IS USED TO CONCEAL A VAPID INTERIOR
- IS IN A BAND
- WARNING--IS OFTEN ASIAN



- POSSESSES AN ATROPHIED CRITICAL MIND
- WON'T LEAVE AFTER MAKING A PURCHASE
- TALKS INCESSANTLY ABOUT UNRELATED SUBJECTS



- IS INTO "CREATIVE" PEOPLE
- HAS NO RIGHT TO BE AT THE CON
- OFTEN SEEN WITH HER SUGAR DADDY
- DON'T HIT ON HER (EVERYONE ELSE HAS. BESIDES, SHE EXPECTS IT.)



- CRAVES PEER APPROVAL
- THE COMIC-CON IS THE ONLY SOCIAL INTERACTION HE GETS
- MALADJUSTED PERSONALITY IS A RESULT OF CHILDHOOD TRAUMA
- CAN'T RESIST THE TOO-BEAUTIFUL GIRL
- WARNING--IS OFTEN ASIAN

everybody cries



WOMEN ARE OFTEN ACCUSED OF USING CROCODILE TEARS TO GET WHAT THEY WANT.



A SPECIAL MESSAGE TO THE READERS OF 'TIME'S UP'



I HAVE A FEW QUESTIONS FOR YOU.



DO YOU PREFER 'STAR TREK' OR 'STAR WARS'?



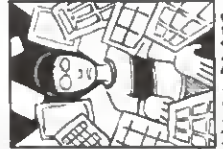
HOW ABOUT SEAN CONNERY OR ROGER MOORE?



WHAT SECRET ARE YOU HIDING FROM ME?



WHAT DO YOU REALLY THINK ABOUT MY 'TOMMY BOOK'?



WHICH PAGES IN THIS ISSUE DO YOU NOT 'GET'?



ADMIT IT, YOU LIKE THE 'YELLOW KID' BETTER, RIGHT?



WELL, YOUR OPINION DOESN'T COUNT.



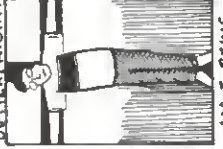
GO READ THE SPORTS PAGE.



IS THIS 'RADICAL ENOUGH' FOR YOU?



AM I BEING 'PROVOCATIVE'...



BIG BOOK OF DE CLICHES



--OR JUST BANAL?



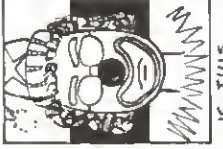
CAN YOU EVEN TELL THE DIFFERENCE?



SHUT UP AND DRINK YOUR CARAMEL MACCHIATO.



IS THIS FUNNY TO YOU?



DO YOU THINK YOU'D LIKE ME IF WE MET?



DON'T LAUGH. YOU LOOK UGLY WHEN YOU DO.



YOU NEED TO LOSE SOME WEIGHT.



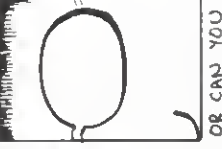
NO ONE LIKES YOU.



OR CAN YOU SEE BEYOND THE FAÇADE?



END.



END.

ONE DAY in GOLETA

by PATRICK J. LEE ©1999



I WAS AT THE 2nd ANNUAL SANTA BARBARA ZINEFEST WHEN...



DO ANY OF THESE BOOKS HAVE NUDDITY?



WAIT A MINUTE! DID I HEAR YOU SAY NUDDITY?



YEAH. NUDDITY!



HEY PAT. DID YOU JUST COMMIT A CRIME?



HOW OLD WAS THAT KID?



AHH, IT'S NO BIG DEAL. I USED TO SELL MY OLD PLAYBOYS TO THE KIDS IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD.



'E', FENGEDABOUTITI! GESTURE



HERE THIS ONE DOES. HOW ABOUT THAT?



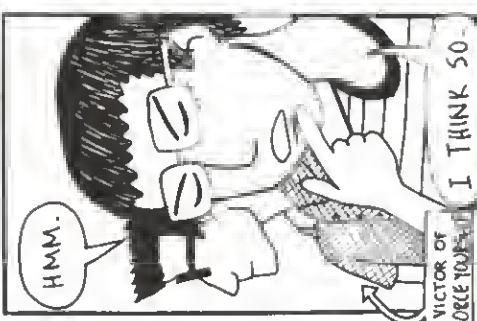
IT'S A DOLLAR? YEP. I'LL TAKE IT.



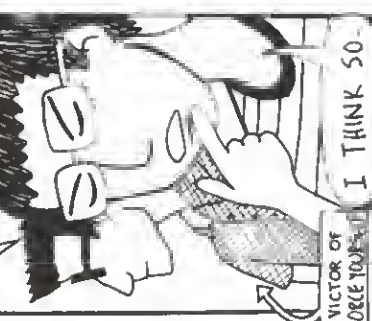
I FIGURED IT WAS WORTH IT AS LONG AS SOMEONE GOT SOME USE OUT OF THEM.



MY FRIEND PAT IS A SMUT PEDDLER! END



HMM.



VICTOR OF FORCE YOURSELF I THINK SO.

6-25-99

ONE DAY in GLENDALE

ANOTHER
MEAN-SPRITED, TRUE-LIFE
ADVENTURE IN
THE DAILY TRAMLS OF PAT
FOR DELANE - ©1999 Pat

FOR THE PAST THREE WEEKS, I HAD BEEN TRYING TO GET A PASSPORT. IT WAS TOUGH GOING BECAUSE EVERY TIME I TRIED, I EITHER DIDN'T HAVE THE RIGHT DOCUMENTS (BIRTH CERTIFICATE, E.T.A.) OR NEGLECTED TO SET UP AN APPOINTMENT.



BUT TODAY, I WAS FINALLY READY. NO MATTER WHAT ELSE WOULD HAPPEN, THIS WAS ONE THING I WOULD ACCOMPLISH TODAY

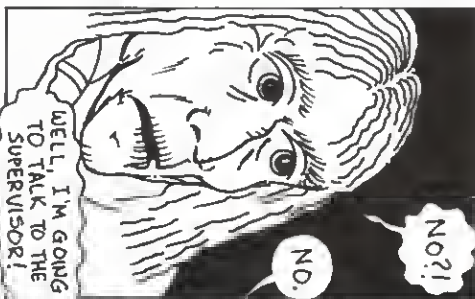


EXCUSE ME, BUT MY HUSBAND IS DYING OF A TERRIBLE DISEASE, SO CAN I --

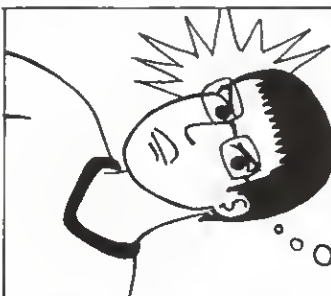


NO?!

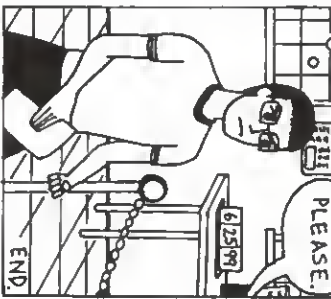
NO.



WAIT A MINUTE! WHAT IF SHE WASN'T ASKING FOR MONEY AND ONLY WANTED TO CUT IN FRONT OF ME?



EAH, WHO CARES? SHE'D BE GETTING IN THE WRONG LINE ANYWAY.



Some Day
My Prince
Will Come

WORDS: EMILY
PICTURES: Pat

BUT EVERY TIME WE SAW ONE, WITHOUT FAIL, MY DAD WOULD SAY,

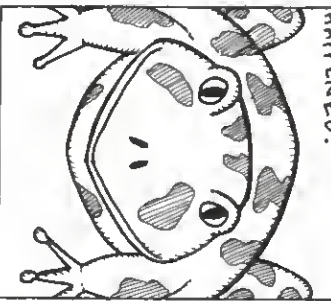
Do you think that one might be a prince in disguise?



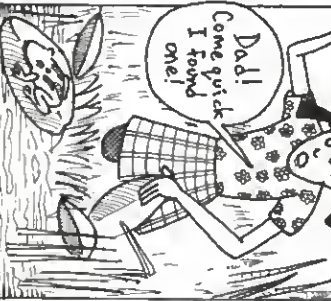
I'D CHASE THE LITTLE GUY AROUND, FINALLY CATCH UP TO HIM, AND PLANT ONE ON WHAT I BELIEVED WERE HIS LIPS.



LOOK, IT'S NOT LIKE I'M BUILDING UP ANY SUSPENSE HERE. OBVIOUSLY NOTHING HAPPENED.



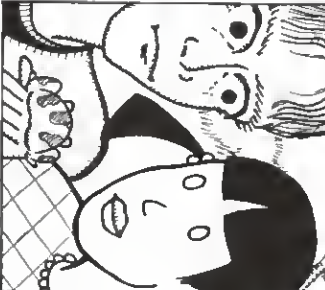
BUT I KEPT FINDING FROGS AND I KEPT KISSING THEM.



JUST WANTED TO MAKE MY DAD HAPPY, OR A LITTLE BIT OF BOTH. NONE OF THOSE OPTIONS SEEM IMPORTANT ENOUGH NOW TO OUTWEIGH THE GROSSNESS OF IT ALL.



THEN MY DAD AND I WOULD STARE AT THE FROG AND WAIT.



AND FRANKLY, I'M A LITTLE CONCERNED WHAT THIS SAYS ABOUT MY ABILITY TO LEARN A LESSON.



AND DO THEY REALLY THINK THAT MONEY WILL SOLVE ALL THEIR PROBLEMS?

END.

END.

END.

END.

END.

BUT I THOUGHT

©1999 PATRICK J. LEE

WHAT DO
WOMEN
REALLY WANT?



DOES SHE
REALLY
LOVE ME?



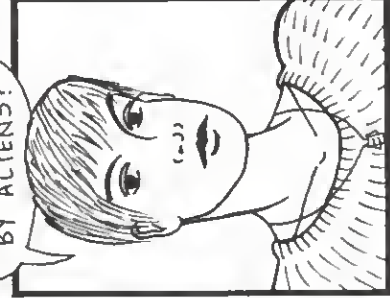
WHAT HAPPENS
TO US
AFTER WE DIE?



IS TIME
LINEAR OR
CIRCULAR?



HAVE WE
BEEN VISITED
BY ALIENS?



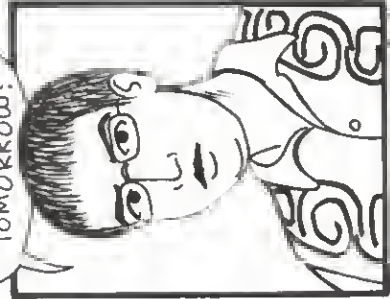
IS MEAT
REALLY
MURDER?



IS AIDS A
GENETICALLY
ENGINEERED DISEASE?



WHAT AM I
GOING TO DO
TOMORROW?



END

TEN YEARS AGO, MIKE LUJAN AND I
CREATED A NINE-ISSUE MINI-COMICS
SERIES. NOT MANY READERS OF TIMES UP
ARE AWARE OF THIS BOOK SO, ON THE
OCCASION OF ITS TENTH ANNIVERSARY,
LET'S REVISIT --

THE DENIZENS of ALPHAVILLE™

FOR MIKE - Pat. A.

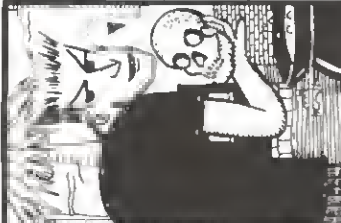
MITCH TANZA
THE SECRET OF HIS TRUE
HERITAGE COULD SAVE
ALPHAVILLE OR DESTROY IT.

MITCH'S BURGEONING
FRIENDSHIP WITH DENNIS
LEADS HIM TO DISCOVER
THE IDENTITY OF HIS
TRUE FATHER AND THE
NATURE OF HIS CONTROL
OVER THE MAGICAL
ANIMALS KNOWN AS
FROBISHES.



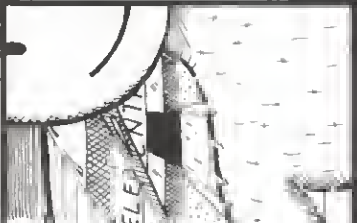
TOD FLEMISH
THE VILLAIN OF
OUR PIECE

LEADER OF A GROUP
OF OLDER KIDS, HE
FRAMES DENNIS FOR
THE DEATH OF OMAR,
THEIR MUTUAL
SCHOOLMATE. AMORAL
AND MANIPULATIVE,
BUD WILL STOP AT
NOTHING TO ACHIEVE
HIS GOALS.

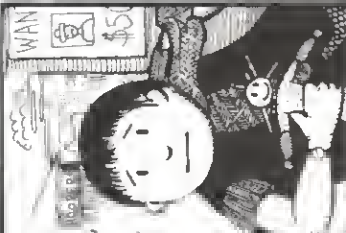


THE WISHING DOLL
DENNIS' SOURCE OF
CONFIDENCE

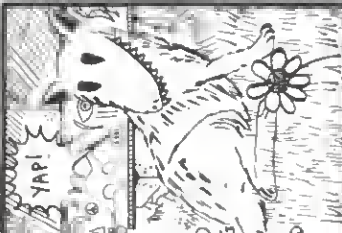
HOLD ON TO THIS
TALISMAN, UTTER THE
INCANTATION, "OCIO-
BOCIO," AND WHATEVER
YOU WISH SHALL COME
TO PASS. AT LEAST,
THAT'S WHAT DENNIS
BELIEVES. BEFORE
OUR STORY IS OVER,
HE WILL HAVE TO LEARN
TO LIVE WITHOUT IT.



DENNIS BUD
THE NEW KID IN TOWN
AS OUR STORY OPENS,
12-YEAR-OLD DENNIS
ARRIVES IN ALPHAVILLE,
THE EASTERN COAST OF
VINITHI ISLAND. HE
SOON FINDS FRIEND-
SHIP IN A 14-YEAR-OLD
BOY WHO IS ABOUT TO
EMBARK ON A RITE-OF-
PASSAGE VOYAGE TO THE
ABANDONED CITY OF ITS

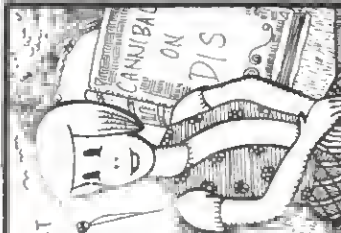


FIDDO
MITCH'S MYSTICAL
PET FROBISH



DENNIS' LOVE INTEREST

BUD COERCES HER
INTO BETRAYING
DENNIS AT A PIVOTAL
MOMENT IN OUR
STORY. THEIR
SHATTERED LOVE
IS ONE OF
ALPHAVILLE'S MOST
TRAGIC CASUALTIES



OMAR'S GRIEVING SISTER

AFTER THE STRANGE
CIRCUMSTANCES OF
HER BROTHER'S DEATH
AT THE HANDS OF
CANNIBALS IN THE CITY
OF DIS, SASH IS SO
BLINDED BY HER DESIRE
FOR REVENGE THAT SHE
CAN'T SEE THAT BUD
IS LIVING HER TO
CONCEAL HIS OWN
CULPABILITY.

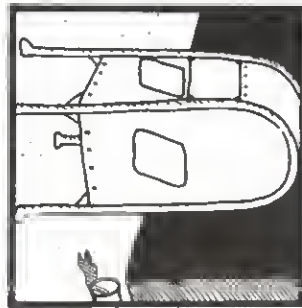


9

16

MAILBOX

WHEN I WAS FIRST PUT HERE ON THIS CORNER, I THOUGHT I COULD NEVER GET ANY MAIL.



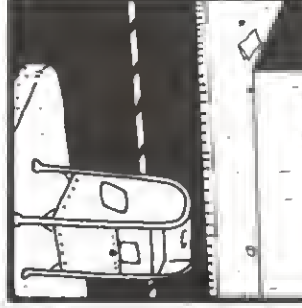
BUT I LIKED TO IMAGINE IT WAS SOMETHING IMPORTANT— LIKE A LEGAL CONTRACT OR VACATION PHOTOS OR EVEN A LOVE LETTER. I COULDN'T WAIT UNTIL WEDNESDAY.



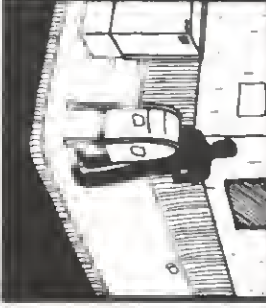
BUT THAT'S NOTHING COMPARED TO LAST TUESDAY NIGHT. I THINK IT WAS 2:30AM WHEN I HEARD A STRANGE SPOOKY NOISE. I ADORE TO SEE SOMEONE TRYING TO UNSCREW MY FEET FROM THE STAIRS.



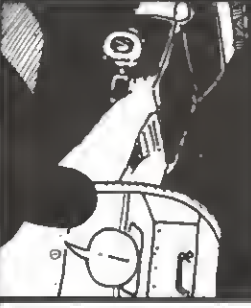
HOW WOULD EVEN KNOW I WAS HERE, I THOUGHT. THERE AREN'T ANY HOUSES AROUND AND I DON'T SEE ANY PEOPLE.



AFTER A FEW MONTHS, I BEGAN TO NOTICE A STEADY STREAM OF PEOPLE WHO WOULD VISIT ME REGULARLY. I LIKED IT EVERY TIME A FAMILIAR FACE WOULD OPEN MY DOOR.



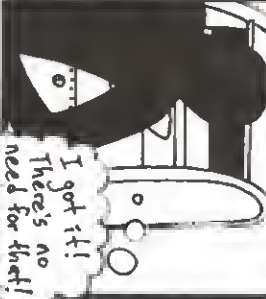
FORTUNATELY, THE HEADLIGHTS OF A NEARBY POLICE CAR SCARED HIM AWAY. I THINK HE WAS ABLE TO LOOSEN ONE OF MY SCREWS BUT THAT WAS ABOUT IT.



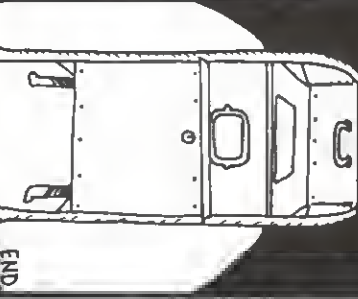
BUT ONE SUNDAY, ABOUT THREE WEEKS AGO, I GOT MY FIRST PIECE OF MAIL. IT WAS A LITTLE ENVELOPE WITH NO MORE THAN ONE OR TWO PIECES OF PAPER IN IT.



BUT I DIDN'T LIKE THE PEOPLE WHO, AFTER DEPENDING THEIR MAIL, WOULD OPEN MY DOOR AGAIN TO MAKE SURE I'D GOTTEN THEIR MESSAGE.



BOY, WAS I RELIEVED. I'M GLAD I CAN SAY I'M HERE TO STAY!



I got it! There's no need for that!

END

I WENT TO A PARTY ONCE WHERE I WAS OVERWHELMED BY THE NUMBER OF GRAMMATICAL ERRORS I HEARD. CAN YOU HELP ME FIND THEM ALL?



I MET MY BOYFRIEND AT THE LIBRARY. HE'S AN ATTORNEY OF LAW.

I COULD CARE LESS

DID YOU SEE THAT STAR TRACK EPISODE WHERE THEY SUPPOSIVELY...

MIBRAINE HEADACHE

I WANT TO PRE-WARN YOU ABOUT.

FOR ALL INTENSIVE PURPOSES, IT'S A DOGGY DOG WORLD.

I'VE DECIDED TO TRY A NEW TACT.

ICE CREAM SHERBERT

MY HEAD LITERALLY EXPLODED.

COULD I GET YOUR ADVISE ON THIS JEWELRY I WANT TO BUY?

I'M WAITING WITH BAITED BREATH.

MORE BETTER

I COULD REALLY USE AN EXPRESSO.

I MET MINE AT THE LAUNDRYMAT.

15

FIRST FIVE COMPLETE ANSWERS WINS A SPECIAL PRIZE!

END.

